

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are presently pending in this application, Claim 1 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Foote, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,439,730).

Amended Claim 1 is fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. Applicants therefore submit that no new matter has been introduced.

Briefly recapitulating, Claim 1 is directed to an outer mirror assembly for a vehicle. For example, referring to the non-limiting embodiment of Figs. 5-8, the outer mirror assembly includes a mirror base 10, a mirror housing 20 and a rear view mirror 23b disposed in the mirror housing 20. The mirror base 10 includes only one extension 10b which is adapted to extend outwardly from a side of a vehicle body VB. The mirror housing 20 has an upper surface and is fixed to the only one extension 10b only at the upper surface adapted to form a space S between the vehicle body VB and the mirror housing 20.

According to the present invention recited in Claim 1, an outer mirror assembly includes **a mirror base which includes only one extension** adapted to extend outwardly from a side of a vehicle body, and a mirror housing which has an upper surface and is **fixed to the only one extension only at the upper surface** adapted to form a space between the vehicle body and the mirror housing. Thus, when wind stream flows through the space between the vehicle body and the mirror housing, turbulence of the wind stream is reduced. As a result, wind noise can be reduced, and raindrops falling onto a side window of the side

of the vehicle body can be efficiently blown off thereby improving a visibility of the rear view mirror for a vehicle driver.<sup>1</sup>

The Office Action asserts that Foote et al. disclose that an outer mirror assembly includes a mirror base (22, 24, 30) including a single extension (22) and a mirror housing (40) having an upper surface and fixed to the single extension (22) only at the upper surface. However, Foote et al. fail to disclose that an outer mirror assembly includes **a mirror base which includes only one extension** adapted to extend outwardly from a side of a vehicle body, and a mirror housing which has an upper surface and is **fixed to the only one extension only at the upper surface** adapted to form a space between the vehicle body and the mirror housing.

Instead, as shown in Fig. 1, Foote et al. disclose that the mirror housing (40) includes two extensions which are the upper and lower support arms (22, 24), and that the mirror housing (40) is fixed to both of the two extensions. Thus, in Foote et al., when wind stream flows through the space between the vehicle body and the mirror housing, turbulence of wind stream occurs. As a result, wind noise cannot be reduced. Further, because raindrops falling onto the side window cannot be efficiently blown off, a visibility of the rear view mirror for a vehicle driver cannot be improved.

Accordingly, Foote et al. are not believed in any way to anticipate the specific features recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Substantially the same arguments as set forth above with regard to Claim 1 also apply to dependent Claim 2, which depend directly from Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 2 is also believed to be allowable.

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<sup>1</sup> See the present specification, page 7, line 12, to page 8, line 8.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

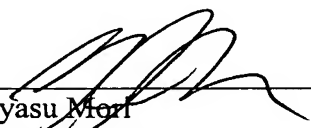
Respectfully submitted,

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